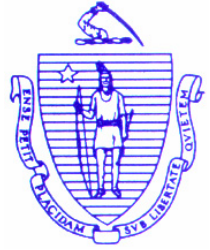




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Marine Fisheries Advisory

**SCIENTISTS AND FISHERMEN TEAM UP TO MOVE WHITE SHARK
FINAL 100 YARDS TO OPEN WATER**

Message from the Director

The great white shark that has inhabited a shallow embayment off Woods Hole, Massachusetts for at least the past two weeks was successfully coerced into deeper waters on Monday. Marine Fisheries officials using two small boats equipped with high-powered water hoses were able to direct streams of water around the fish and guide it to deeper water. Consequently, as Director, I have removed the Control Zone effective 6:00 A.M. on Tuesday, October 5th. This action restores public access in the vicinity, with the exception of the southern entrance of the cut in Lackey's Harbor, which continues to be netted off until Friday of this week.



Water streams were just a part of a multi-faceted plan to work the fish over shoal areas that blocked the fish from accessing deeper open ocean waters. Yesterday's operation began with commercial weir fishermen deploying a 150-foot floating rope with lead-weighted lines hanging vertically every 18 inches to create a curtain-like effect. The team of biologists and fishermen hoped this would sweep the shark over the shoals and in the direction of deeper water. Once the shark passed through the hanging lines with little resistance, the technique was abandoned.

Focus was then shifted on building a net panel to tow behind the shark, to coax it over the eel-grass covered shoal. While fishermen worked on the net, Marine Fisheries biologists attempted to use streams of water to corral the shark and herd it. This technique proved successful in moving the fish more than 200 yards to deeper water. After clearing the final few yards of shallow water, the shark surfaced showing its dorsal and tail fin before diving out of sight as it left the shoal and entered deeper water. The last confirmed sighting came within seconds when a nearby news helicopter reported losing sight of the shark when it was about 250 yards from land.

On Tuesday afternoon, MarineFisheries biologist Greg Skomal accompanied U.S. Coast Guard officials on an aerial survey of nearby coastal waters to determine if the shark has remained in the vicinity. The shark was not seen. Any potential sightings of large sharks in our coastal waters by the public should be reported to MarineFisheries (for contact information, visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).

Throughout this event, MarineFisheries had a high media profile during which professionals within the Division and cooperating fishermen proved to be extremely proactive and absolutely responsible. I wish to especially acknowledge Commissioner David Peters of the Department of Fish and Game and one of my Deputy Directors, Dan McKiernan who provided additional leadership and administrative support for MarineFisheries' ad-hoc "Shark Response Team". The Team was led by Greg Skomal and staffed by Ed Lyman, John Chisholm, Terry O'Neil, Bill Hoffman and Cate O'Keefe. Valuable field assistance was provided to the team by Vin Malkoski, Kevin Creighton, Mike Hickey and Mike Armstrong. Expert interagency and media coordination was provided by Melanie Griffin, and the DFG's Bob Greco. Dissemination of information including video and photos on our website was made possible by the tremendous efforts of Micah Dean. Lastly, MarineFisheries wishes to commend the skills and cooperative spirit of fishermen: Ernie Eldredge, Mark Simonitsch, John Eldridge, Shareen Davis, Chip Foster, Captain J.C. Burke, Chuck Walker, and Chuck Martinson. Their success in moving the fish out of the channel on Friday was a phenomenal effort and their guidance on fish behavior was critical in crafting and executing Monday's successful effort.

MarineFisheries' ability to carry out its plans was due in large part to the exemplary patrol efforts of the Office of Environmental Law Enforcement (OELE) led by Captain Jim Hanlon. Officers of the OELE including Captain Kathleen Dolan and Lieutenant Peter Hanlon provided nearly constant land and vessel-based coverage of the area, ensuring public safety and a sound working environment for MarineFisheries.

Congratulations to everyone for a job well done.

Special Advisory

Agency officials wish to remind media and the public that sharks can be dangerous and often unpredictable creatures. While great care has been taken, and extensive evaluation has been done, to assist this shark with moving from a shallow-water embayment, it is simply impossible to guarantee that all sharks will behave the same way. All sharks should be treated with respect and caution, and not approached. Water sport participation in the presence of sharks is inherently dangerous. Any human activity in the water near sharks must always be considered as possessing a considerable degree of risk.